

# THE RIO NEWS.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, APRIL 30TH, 1895.

NUMBER 18

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RIO DE JANEIRO, APRIL 30th, 1895.

THE absence of a definite, well-considered plan for the improvement of this city, promises to lead to endless trouble and expense. Difficulties have already arisen with property-owners over the lawless attempts of recent municipal governments to compel them to bear all the expense of improvements, and these difficulties will not only increase in number, but they will soon become serious obstacles to the growth of the city unless some definite and just rule is adopted for such cases. It is true that property-owners will always derive benefit from the widening and improvement of a street, and it is only fair therefore that they should bear a portion of the expense. But the whole population receives a benefit also, and for this reason a part of the cost should be borne by the public treasury. In many if not the majority of cases a few feet from a building lot to widen a street is no real loss to a proprietor beyond the cost of erecting a new front to his building, but it may occur, particularly with corner buildings, that the loss of these few feet means a serious depreciation in the value of the property. To avoid the infliction of such losses and at the same time to save all unnecessary expense, the municipal government ought to at once adopt a definite and permanent plan for the street improvements of the city, in order to forestall the erection of costly buildings on streets which must be widened, and it should secure some definite legislation on the condemnation of property so that the costs of such improvements may be divided equitably between the municipality and the property-owners. Nothing should be left to the caprice of the prefect and the municipal engineer, and the property-owner should always have an appeal to the courts for protection against unjust disappropriations. There ought to be no hostility between private and public interests, but yet it frequently occurs that they are bitterly antagonistic. In this city, this feeling of antagonism is sure to be aroused, for the property-owners are, as a rule, wholly devoid of public spirit, and the authorities are inclined to be arbitrary and exacting. Great avenues are urgently needed, however, and many streets must be widened to accommodate the traffic which has already outgrown their narrow limits. Liberal provisions for these improvements can not reasonably be deferred, if the commerce now seeking this port is to be expeditiously and economically handled.

THE cable tells us that Russia, Germany and France have resolved to protest against Japan's acquiring any territory from China on the mainland. It may be that the cable has not told us the truth; in the interests of consistency and common justice let us hope that this is the case. After having absorbed Poland and a half of Asia, Russia surely can not protest when plucky little Japan demands a small piece of territory from China after a skillfully and

bravely fought campaign. With Hanover, Schleswig-Holstein and Alsace-Lorraine absorbed, and with a number of plundering raids in Africa in progress, it will become Germany to feign indignation when Japan demands territory as indemnity for war expenses. And as for France, whose thirst for territory has become an absorbing passion, it would be better for her consistency to withdraw from Cochín China and Madagascar, than to meddle with the Japanese. The fact is, there are but three or four nations in Europe which can consistently criticize the demands of Japan, for the latter is doing no more in the East than all the great powers have already done in the West. At the present moment Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Belgium are busily plundering and dividing up the African continent, and they are not a whit ashamed to use machine guns and magazine rifles on the naked savages who resist the intrusion. And in Asia, Russia, Great Britain and France are steadily extending their limits, and are willing to seize upon China whenever they can find a pretext for doing so. And yet, the moment little Japan boxes the big Chinaman's ears and demands a little corner of his estate for the trouble, every one of these big, professional land-grabbers stands aghast, and some of them even talk of a protest! It is Satan rebuking sin, sure enough! Even in the United States there are newspapers mean-spirited enough to call upon the government to interfere, so that American interests in China may not be prejudiced! And what interests, may we ask, can any nation have in China different from those they may have in any other part of the world? Is any one protesting over the violent partition of Africa? Are the Americans protesting because their interests in Madagascar are jeopardized by French conquest? Was Russia shocked when Germany absorbed Alsace and Lorraine? And is France bewailing the persistence with which Italy is crowding the Abyssinians out of their mountain homes? Certainly not! They are as unconsciously wrong-doing at home as newly-born babes, and they are as certain of their disinterestedness and moral sense as they are of future happiness! If we ask on what grounds they would interfere with Japan, they talk vaguely about commercial interests, "our colonies in the East," and the rise of a new power to oppose Western civilization. And what has all this to do with Japan's demand for territorial indemnity? Commerce in a foreign country is not a vested interest, and a military obstacle is no more prejudicial to us at any time than a hostile tariff. As for "our colonies," they are the results of usurpations and can have no prior rights in comparison with those of a nation which was old before they came into existence. And as for the new power which is to resist the advance of our Western civilization, the quicker it can fulfill its destiny, the better! Japan is more civilized to-day than Russia, or than a half of Europe! She may be an obstacle to the future partition of China, of which some of our civilized Western brigands are dreaming! And she may yet teach the best of us a few lessons in civilization which will put our Western selfishness to shame! She has taught us a lesson or two already, even when we were treating her as a barbarian, unfit to associate with us on equal terms. And the new life is only just stirring within her! Japan is now one of the nations of the world—free, independent and self-governing. She has proved her right to that place, and has demonstrated her ability to maintain it. And the nation which attempts to dispute her position in the East will find that it has made a serious mistake.

### RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—The opening of the national Congress of Argentina will take place at Buenos Aires to-morrow.

—A Montevideo telegram of the 27th announces the arrival there of ex-President Caceres, of Peru, who intends to make that city his future home.

—It was expected that a decree would be signed by the Uruguayan government on the 14th abolishing quarantine on Argentine arrivals. No mention was made of a similar act affecting Brazilian arrivals. Probably it was felt that it would not do to slant up Flores Island altogether.

—The so-called assisted immigration to the Argentine shores during the white elephant period, or "crisis of progress," as its originator was pleased to term it, has cost the country pretty dear. Out of five and a half million dollars held in hills by government for these passages, the fiscal has reported at most about \$150,000 to be considered good! —*Argentine Budget.*

—The Uruguayan police have lately detected another attempt to issue counterfeit Brazilian currency. The notes are being printed in Barcelona, and the police have the letters containing the proof impressions.

—The Argentine government has refused to grant the extradition of Pinallis, accused of *hantaje*, because of a lack of documentary proofs. Our Platine neighbor seems to have the idea that it has a right to try a case before granting extradition. To the case of Pinallis, it was claimed by some parties that the Argentine government might stipulate the maximum sentence, under the laws of that country, as a condition preliminary to his extradition. Such conditions would make extradition a farce.

—We have repeatedly called attention to the abuses committed by police commissaries in the province of Santa Fé, but we think that for amity the following instance has seldom been beaten by any of this fraternity. It occurred in the village of Melincó, where some races were recently held, and one of which the commissary had entered a horse. Finding his horse nowhere in the race, he maliciously claimed the prize on some purely imaginary ground, and finding his claim met with a storm of righteous indignation, he laid about him in the crowd with his "revolver," and finally ordered those who resisted his pretensions to prison. —*Argentine Budget.*

—Local creditors of the province of Santa Fé are in a much better position than their comrades on account of having a supreme court of justice to which they can carry their claims. This court has been followed by Messrs. Wallford and Deek, who had a claim against the past administration, and the Supreme Court has now ordered that twenty leagues of land belonging to the province, be sold by auction, and the proceeds handed to the creditors. Unfortunately no action is taken against the members of the past regime, who have brought the most wealthy province in the republic into a state of utter bankruptcy and have turned it into a house of refuge for all the scoundrels in the country. —*Review, Buenos Aires.*

—If anything were wanting to illustrate how ridiculous principles are understood by the government of the province of Santa Fé the following furnishes a very good instance: On the day on which Governor Leiza visited Rosario, two respectable business men were discussing the event in a tramcar and during their conversation uttered some criticisms against his government. When arriving at their destination they were both arrested without a word of explanation and taken to the prison, where they were held for 24 hours, after which they were taken to the central department, ordered to clean away the refuse in dirty cells and finally liberated on payment of 8 dollars each. The excuse for this arbitrary proceeding on the part of the police was that the prisoners were guilty of disorder! —*Argentine Budget, Rosario.*

—If the national honor has been wounded, and if individuals living on the Uruguayan frontier have suffered through the incursions of Brazilian revolutionaries, the situation has not been without its consolations for some of the residents in Montevideo. It was estimated that in the battle of Uruguay, every man killed represented an expenditure of his weight in lead. The number killed in the Rio Grande revolution, if the telegrams are to be believed, has been something prodigious, and the ammunition must have come from somewhere, although the work of killing may not have been so expensive as in the old days when weapons of precision were not in use. The fact that a large deficiency has been discovered in the arsenal at Montevideo would seem to indicate one at least of the sources of supply, and it would be setting too high a value on Uruguayan sympathy with liberty against oppression to suppose that the revolutionaries were supplied gratis. —*Review, Buenos Aires.*

—We do not refer to the consumption of the fragrant beverage, which, alas, is rapidly giving place to the omnipotent tea, but to the *peru mate*, whose cultivation is to be attempted in Buenos Aires. Plants and seeds have been obtained from Uruguay, and possibly some of our sympathetic friends might be induced to secure the services of the spirit of one of the old Jesuit fathers, with whom the secret of the cultivation of the mate plant is supposed to have died; perhaps the same kind spirit would at the same time give M. Thays, who is to have charge of the experiment, some "whiskies" as in the transplanting of plane trees. In view of the increasing use of tea in this country, we might suggest that in the event of the mate experiment proving successful, the cultivation of the tea plant should next be tried, so that we may no longer be at the mercy of greedy importers and foreign ships. Perhaps the Lezama Park might be converted into a tea-garden. —*Review, Buenos Aires.*

—Two gentlemen of Buenos Aires, the one hailing from Rojas, and the other from San Nicolás had a difference of opinion about some political question. What the difference was, we need not pause to enquire; probably it was as important as most political questions in this country. Anyhow, the difference was so sharp between them that it was decided blood must flow, and they parted, to meet again. The authorities of San Nicolás were so unco-operative as to prohibit the usual satisfaction afforded to gentlemen of a mildly sanguinary proclivity, and an adjournment was made into the adjoining province of Santa Fé. At the next session, in Rosario they met, the morning being wet enough to damp most men's ardor. Unfettered, however, by the proprieties, character of the weather, they adjourned to a *galpón* in the town. There they lacked at one another with salutes for a few moments, until blood began to flow. Although first blood was to decide it, they managed to wound each other in more than one place. Having been satisfied, and each having managed to bring home themselves like gentlemen, they adjourned to consult their medical advisers, the one in Rosario, and the other in Buenos Aires. Of course warrants ought to have been issued for their arrest, but of course no such thing was done. —*Review, Buenos Aires.*

—A Buenos Aires telegram of the 25th says that both the Argentine and Uruguayan authorities had just suspended the quarantines enforced against each other. The river boats will now begin running again between the two cities, and Montevideo will escape the punishment she so richly deserves at the hands of the foreign steamship companies.

—The revolutionary election in the Santiago del Estero tapout was of very short duration. Telegraphic communication was suspended, of course, and some regulations were sent up to restore the government, but that that gentleman could not at first be found. The revolutionaries, however, had no stomach for fighting, and when the governor disappeared they at once returned to their peaceful avocations of smoking cigarettes and talking politics.

—According to the *Times*, of Buenos Aires, Balfour had expended over seventy-eight thousand dollars in judicial and other expenses in connection with his extradition and other suits, all of which, he says, was supplied by friends at home. He had entirely exhausted the means at his command, however, which may account for the resolution of the Santa authorities to release him. The *Times* says that Miss Freeman had to sell her several trinkets to obtain money to pay her passage home.

—A few days ago the custom house officials were successful in finding in the baggage of a *médico* just arrived from Europe a quantity of new silk-hats, etc. As soon as the lady was informed that the goods would be confiscated she went to the city to see her clients, who rank amongst the upper ten and who are nearly all government officials. Late ladies went to see the chief of the custom house and one informed him that she had nothing to put on and that it would be terrible if she had to order the goods from Paris, and in crown all she promised not to employ the *médico* again if he would only agree to her request, but Señor Rodríguez was inexorable. A gentleman then approached and implied that his ammunitions and boots he given him, as without boots he could not walk, but in the answer that ties and boots could be acquired in Buenos Aires, he replied, drawing himself up: "No, Sir, I will clothe myself from Europe—as I wish you to understand that I am not a *rotatorio*." The contraband amounts to about dollars \$5,000 gold. —*Review, Buenos Aires.*

—The farmers are very justly protesting against the unjust manner in which the government of Santa Fé is levying the "contribution directa," tax, being in numerous instances perfectly monstrous. It would appear that Governor Leiza is determined to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs, for we learn from authentic sources that this tax as levied on certain lands exceeds double, and in some cases triple, that of last year—being as much as one third of the value of the rent per league in certain instances. The fixed assessors have taken no account whatever of the present condition of agriculture, of the depopulation of the villages, or of the industrial depression in the camp district. More especially is this the case in the department General López, where the assessors have valued property on the last year's sale, being apparently both deaf to the reasonable protest of the proprietors and blind to the agricultural interests of the province. The outcome becomes the greater when, having the government they have, Santa Fé farmers have no remedy. —*Argentine Budget, Rosario.*

## PROVINCIAL NOTES

—In the state of Paraná there have been disturbances in the town of Corrientes.

—The Superior Court of Alagoas has decided that the present government of that state is unconstitutional.

—According to a journal of Rio Grande do Norte the Rev. Mr. Pinter has made in the capital of that state many converts to Protestantism.

—The municipal council of Pará has made a contract with José Cuchin for supplying the city with beef after May 1 at the rate of \$2000 per kilo. The present price is \$1500.

—A telegram from Porto Alegre on the 28th inst. announces that Col. Facundes Tavares had sailed for this port on the steamer *Imperato*, in accordance with the requisition of the Supremo Tribunal, backed by the orders of the federal government.

—Trouble has now arisen at Aracaju, Sergipe, between one of Col. Vallada's lieutenants and the federal customs authorities, the former having been forbidden to enter the custom-house. With the disregard for orders which characterizes the men of that group, he insists on entering the custom-house at pleasure, consequently a military guard has been placed there to keep him out.

—In some of the states of the extreme north heavy rains have caused considerable damage and much suffering among the people, who are, on account of the interruption of communications, have had great difficulty in obtaining fuel. The town of Aracaju in Ceará is threatened with a fresher similar to that which occurred in 1812, and in Pará it is said that the rains are heavier than they have been at any previous time for the last forty years.

—On the 20th inst. in the S. Paulo legislature Deputy Francisco Malla offered a motion for asking the president of the state to furnish information on the following points: 1st, amount of assistance rendered by the state treasury to the government of the republic before the naval revolt for the suppression of the revolution in Rio Grande do Sul; 2nd, amount of such assistance since the beginning of the naval revolt; 3rd, amount of the outlays of the federal treasury to the state of S. Paulo; 4th, amount of the extraordinary expenses made on account of the state treasury during the revolutionary movement of the navy and of the forces that entered the state of Paraná; 5th, amount of balance in favor of the state treasury in the Banco União de S. Paulo.

—On steamers of the Lloyd Brasileiro in the first quarter of the present year 398 emigrants left Ceara for the southern part of Brazil and 2,834 for the north, against 134 for the south and 897 for the north in the first quarter of 1894.

—In the town of Patruia, S. Paulo, the president of the municipal chamber was deposed on the 13th inst., by a band of armed men and on the following day he received a written order from his successor to appear before the latter and give an account of the municipal property and the respective revenue and expenditure.

#### RIO GRANDE DO SUL.

The report of the death of Turquito Severo and of the wounding of Apparecio Saiva has proved to be incorrect. According to telegrams of the 23rd Apparecio was then reported to be at D. Pedro. It is stated that a stage-coach running between Bagé and D. Pedro and containing important correspondence had fallen into its hands.

A telegram of the 24th says that a force of 1,200 men under Col. Fumino de Paula had been sent to dislodge the federalists at S. Gabriel.

On the 24th it was reported in this city that the government had decided, at the cabinet meeting held on that day, to take no steps for making peace in Rio Grande.

It has been reported that the President will send to congress a message on the subject of Rio Grande, and Congressman Moreira da Silva, it is stated, will again introduce the bill which he framed in 1893.

A telegram of the 25th says that Apparecio Saiva has issued an order declaring that all federalists terminate at the end of this month. Soldiers who fail to make their appearance in camp within 20 days will be considered deserters and those who leave camp without permission, taking with them their arms, will, if captured, be court-martialed and shot. The object of this order is evidently to improve the discipline of the army and to enable the leaders to be sure of the number of men at their disposal, as is essential to the success of any strategic movements that may be planned. As the revolutionists have no organized government and as their army is composed entirely of volunteers who have little or no pay, it is not surprising that they should endeavor to maintain discipline or to plan regular military operations. Had this not been the case they would undoubtedly have derived more benefit from their victories and would probably have long since reached Porto Alegre. Apparecio Saiva's order is consequently an attempt to remedy this evil.

Gaspar Barreto is said to have reached Quarary with 400 fresh troops for the revolutionists and another column numbering over 1,000 men is reported to be preparing to enter the city.

It is believed that Congressman Athyr Rios will introduce a bill in conformity with the ideas of the government.

There seems to be in some quarters a desire to misrepresent the situation and to complain of Silveira Martins' not having made overtures for peace. It is well, in view of this, not to lose sight of the fact that the federalists took up arms because they were not permitted to live peacefully at home and exercise their political rights. Before the war began over 15,000 federalists had been forced by oppression into exile, and the government is undoubtedly aware that all they demand is that it shall cease to hold them in the castles in office by force. Silveira Martins' force to induce the Brazilian people to adopt the parliamentary system, and, whatever may be one's views in regard to this system, it is certainly tyrannical to combat it by oppressing the people of Rio Grande.

A telegram of the 27th states that on the 26th 700 men set out from Santo Anna do Livramento for the purpose of reinforcing Gen. Hypolito Ribeiro, leaving the place guarded by 200 men under Col. Paulo Castro.

According to a Porto Alegre telegram Hypolito reports a victory over a body of revolutionists commanded by Capt. Thomaz Medeiros at Ilhóval near Alegrete. The revolutionary commander is said to have died of his wounds after falling into the hands of the federalists.

A cross-bill telegram states that Santos Filho is pursuing a band of federalists into Paraná; but telegrams from other sources say that he is beleaguered in Salade by the revolutionists who have possession of all the roads leading to that place.

#### BAHIA.

The state of Bahia, which for some time has had two chambers of deputies, now has two senators. One of these is holding his sittings at the senate chamber, of which it took possession with the assistance of the police. The other, under the presidency of João do Geronimo, is sitting at the building of the municipal chamber. The latter telegraphed to President Prudente de Moraes asking him to interfere in the matter in conformity with Art. 6 of the constitution. The president, however, declined to interfere, stating that in the present instance such interference would not be justified by any of the four causes specified in that article.

To this Bulo de Geronimo replied with the following telegram:

"Although I am convinced that, in conformity with the provisions of the constitution, federal intervention is proper in the present instance, I confine myself, in view of your answer, to informing you that to-day illegal officers of the senate, including Bulo de Camargo, who is an old senator, and Tanajura and Rodrigues Teixeira, who were yesterday proclaimed senators, took possession of the senate chamber by breaking open the doors and excluding with the assistance of the police citizens who had been elected to the senate. As federates were used against us, we were obliged to meet at the building of the municipal chamber where the legal majority, so rounded by the people, who assembled in large numbers, approved the report recognizing the newly-elected senators belonging to both parties and then re-elected its former officers."

On the 27th inst. the opposition senate passed a motion asking for the intervention of the federal congress. It then passed a motion to adjourn to July 5th. This motion was also voted in the opposition chamber of deputies. The resolution was communicated by telegraph to the President, and it is understood that a manifesto explaining what has occurred will be issued.

#### RAILROAD NOTES

—The S. Paulo Railway Co. has declared a dividend of 12 per cent. for the past year.

—The electric light was inaugurated in the locomotive shops of the Central railway yesterday.

—The inspector of customs at Bahia telegraphs that the obstacles to the discharge of vessels at that port have now been removed.

—Three lighters loaded with bulks from the Iba Vista brickyard, foundered in the bay on the 26th during the storm. Fortunately no lives were lost.

—Application has been made to the state government of S. Paulo for a charter for building a railway of one metre gauge between Araraquara and Ribeirãozinho. The length of this road will be 73 kilometres.

—A telegram from Montevideo on the 27th announces that the Uruguayan government has released quarantine against Rio and Santos to seven days, arrivals from all other Brazilian ports being subject to rigorous disinfection.

—The Bahia and S. Francisco and the Natal and Nova Cruz railways have declared 5 per cent. dividends for the past year. The latter has a deficit of \$5,587 in operating the road. In both cases the dividends were paid from the government interest guarantees.

—In the state senate of Minas Geraes a bill has been introduced for taking over the railways in that state belonging to the Leopoldina Co. Those roads should certainly change hands, but we hardly think that it will be well to transfer them to the state government.

—The treasurer of the Central railway, Sr. Joaquim da Silva Guimarães, has been discovered to be a defaulter to the extent of \$5,000,000. It is strange that the government has permitted his accounts to go unchecked long enough to enable him to make away with so large a sum.

—The state of Minas Geraes up to March 31st had advanced 6,775,044\$84 to railway companies, distributed as follows: to the Companhia Co., 2,020,084\$111; to the Maranhão Co., 2,000,000\$000; to the Espírito Santo and Minas Co., 1,580,778\$75; to the Bahia e Minas Co., 164,583\$75.

—The tramway company in S. Paulo has 77 cars and 1,534 miles. It employs 221 conductors and 268 drivers. Although its receipts amount to 4,400\$000 a day, it is unable to pay dividends to the shareholders. In 1894 its cars carried 17,742,233 passengers against 16,282,900 in 1893 and 10,887,089 in 1892.

—The Central railway possesses 100 locomotives, according to the *Journal do Commercio*, only 33 of which are in good condition. It is far from creditable to the management of that road that such a state of affairs should exist, for it not only implies great carelessness in the use of the locomotives, but more particularly gross inefficiency in the direction of the repair shops. In all probability this latter will not be remedied until a skilled foreign mechanical engineer is employed and given full charge of the shops. It is certainly poor economy to allow the rolling-stock of a road to get into such a condition as this.

#### COFFEE NOTES

—The committee on the constitution and laws in the municipal chamber of Campos has reported in favor of asking the state government of Rio de Janeiro to adopt a less burdensome system of collecting the tax on coffee and it suggests that some provision should be made for relieving un-vent tax receipts (cruas) corresponding to the quantity of coffee consumed in the federal district.

—A Bahia telegram of the 24th says that the coffee exports from that state during the past year amounted to 279,393 bags, of 60 kilos each. The official valuation was 19,111,870\$420. The principal destinations were 119,953 bags to Germany, 58,284 bags to France and 58,195 bags to the United States. It is said that coffee cultivation is developing rapidly in Bahia and that the next crop will be a large one.

—The *Merchants' Review*, of New York, gives the following comparative table of prices and average per capita consumption of coffee in the United States since 1879. The figures are interesting, as they show how quickly consumption declines when prices advance.

Year	Average per capita consumption	Value
1879	13.5	7.42
1880	13.5	8.78
1881	12.5	8.25
1882	10.0	8.50
1883	8.2	8.01
1884	9.3	9.26
1885	8.2	9.60
1886	7.6	9.36
1887	10.7	8.53
1888	14.0	6.81
1889	13.0	9.16
1890	16.0	7.83
1891	19.0	7.99
1892	20.0	9.61
1893	14.0	8.24

\* Value excessive, owing to errors in government statistics, due to valuation in the depreciated currency of Brazil.

#### COFFEE STATISTICS.

It is estimated by competent authorities that the annual consumption of coffee at the present time ranges from 10,500,000 to 11,500,000 bags, the consumption in 1894 being about 11,400,000 bags. At the present time the total production is considerably under this estimate, the difference being probably made good by adulterants. According to Messrs. W. Schreffer & Co., of Rotterdam, the following is the probable total production for 1895-96, compared with the two preceding years:

	1893-94	1894-95	1895-96
bags	bags	bags	bags
Rio, Vietnam and			
Cochin	2,700,000	2,800,000	2,000,000
Siam	1,770,000	4,000,000	3,500,000
Bahia	379,000	300,000	350,000
Mexico and Central America	1,476,400	1,250,000	1,350,000
Venezuela and Colombia	1,214,900	800,000	1,000,000
Porto Rico and British West Indies	195,900	200,000	275,000
Havai	434,200	400,000	450,000
Java government and private	463,200	800,000	750,000
Palang	82,700	43,000	50,000
Meindo	3,000	1,000	5,000
Macassar, Timor etc			
Ceylon	31,900	45,000	40,000
Br. E. India and Manila	27,400	40,000	40,000
	276,300	250,000	300,000
Africa, Mucha, etc.	156,100	200,000	200,000
Total	9,202,000	11,129,000	10,270,000

#### THE COFFEE TAX.

We are in receipt of the following communication from a firm of commissaries in regard to the much discussed coffee tax. We have but one comment to make and that is in regard to the tax on local consumption. If we are dealing simply with an export tax, which it is designed to make the foreign consumer pay, then local consumption should not be taxed. If the states insist on this tax, however, then the tax is one on production rather than upon exportation.

As for the difficulties in determining the proportion due to the several states in case the tax were paid at the time of dispatching the product, we will have no more difficulty than the complications now embarrassing the export of coffee.—Ed. *Avaz*.

#### To the Editor.

Sir,—Will you permit me to correct you on one point in your notice in last issue, as to the weary coffee tax discussion. The plan you suggest of payment of the duty in the custom house in the act of shipment, has been recommended already by a large number of the "commissarios" and planters as you will see from publications very numerous signed in the *Journal do Commercio* of 20 and 29 March and 18 April, and *Pais* of 20 April, etc.

This plan has been accepted by various municipal councils and it is understood to have been favorably considered by the government of Minas; but a great difficulty in the matter of exact distribution among the four states the revenue collected, the old system of crediting the various states according to the "guas" presented with the coffee being decidedly haphazard; and it would be very much more so with "guas" representing no preliminary payment as would now be case were all the 11% payable in the custom-house. Valueless "guas" (or guns of insignificant value) would be constantly lost and their loss as a destruction would imply the loss of the respective duty to the state that issued them. On the other hand "guas" of sufficient value to secure their being taken care of would lead to the resuscitation of the objectionable "guia" traffic, besides depriving the governments of the percentage the "guas" might represent of the duty on local consumption.

If your study of the subject has led you to a satisfactory solution of these difficulties you will be doing very useful work in making it known. As in your strictures on the self interest shown by the various parties to the discussion, you are no doubt in the right.

In a better world we may hope that local authorities will cease from troubling and that planters and their agents will pay without a murmur the taxes that may be found necessary to impose on them.

#### LOCAL NOTES

—The preliminary sessions for the approaching Congress, which opens on May 31st, began on the 27th inst.

—The decree exonerating Demosthenes da Silveira Lobo as director-general of the post-office was signed on the 24th.

—D. Eleonora de Carvalho, daughter of the minister of foreign affairs, was married on the 24th inst. to Dr. Irineu Machado.

—It is reported that Deputy Francisco Glycerio will not be present at the opening of Congress. His return to Rio may be delayed for some week.

—The bronze fountain removed from the Largo da Lapa to make way for the "corner-stone" of the projected Minnie monument, will be henceforth grace the "avenue of palms" in the Botanical Garden. It will replace the old fountain.

—There was a row on the 23rd among the military men who frequent the Ovidio, and a Lieut. Bezerra was taken home slightly wounded. It might be an under-told that a street brawl does nothing whatever to the reputation of a soldier.

—The ferry boat which left the station in this city at 4:30 p.m. on Friday was carried by the current to the vicinity of far Santa Cruz, but finally succeeded in reaching the S. T. oranges station. Something is evidently wrong with this boat.

—The successful candidates for admission are now being received at the Escola Militar, the cholera epidemic there being at an end.

—The chief of police has adopted measures for securing the arrest of pickpockets who now assemble in large numbers at the railway and ferry stations.

—The extra 5,000 lock boxes for the postoffice, which were ordered from the United States a few months ago, have arrived and are now in the custom-house.

—There were 154 deaths from yellow-fever in this city between January 1st and March 31st. In the same period of last year the deaths from that cause numbered 3,652.

—Among the arrivals by the Royal Mail packet *Atia*, which arrived here on the 21st inst., was Mr. William Crichton, secretary of the United States legation at this capital.

—The action of Col. Pedro Alves, commandant of Santa Cruz, in failing to send witnesses for a court martial trial, is exciting comment. Five applications have been made, but without avail.

—The *Gazeta de Notícias* of the 26th inst. says that the government supervisors Xavier da Silveira and Miranla Ribeiro have reported abuses committed in the Faculdade Livre de Direito and that the government has ordered the matter to be investigated.

—The heavy rainstorms which visited this city on Friday, Saturday and Sunday last, occasioned no slight damage through the inundations in certain streets. It would seem that the more the city suffers do for us, the worse off we are for it. The new levels of some streets are turning the others into ponds every time it rains.

—It is estimated that there are 760,000 Italians in Brazil, distributed as follows: S. Paulo, 400,000; Rio Grande, 100,000; Minas Geraes, 70,000; Espírito Santo, 45,000; state of Rio de Janeiro, 30,000; Bahia, 30,000; Paraná, 25,000; Federal district, 20,000; Santa Catharina, 10,000; Pernambuco, 10,000; Pará, 10,000; other states, 10,000.

—The *Journal do Brazil* of the 25th publishes a Porto Alegre telegram stating that Mr. Philip Lloyd Vaughan, formerly hook-keeper of Messrs. Quayle, Davidson & Co., was killed in a recent fight in Rio Grande. According to the telegram he had been a lieutenant in the Tordesillas battalion and at the time of his death was wagon-master of the 31st battalion of regular infantry.

—In an article published in the *Journal do Commercio* of the 26th inst., Barão de Lailao declares that he is in favor of punishing every one who is responsible for the murders committed by order of the government of Marshal Floriano Peixoto. If the criminals are not punished, he adds, it may then be truly said that the Brazilians deserve to live under the most ferocious despotism. Barão de Lailao is senator for the state of Amazonas.

—The *Journal* guarantees that the report of the naval council is against the claim of Admiral Gonçalves for admiral's pay during the period when he was on the retired list as chief of division. The mistaken complaint of having his promotion as admiral back to the date of his retirement (1883), which was made, it is said, with the understanding that it would not include any rights of pay, etc., has given the admiral an opening to claim a large sum of back pay.

—The Uruguayan minister was not present at the recent sanitary conferences in this city. In which various foreign representatives took part. It is said that he had received no instructions from home, and was therefore not at liberty to take any action. It would appear from this that Uruguay does not want any agreement in regard to the imposition of quarantines, perhaps the exclusion of that port from the commercial movement of the coast will be a beneficial lesson.

—The minister of industry has instructed the director-general of the post-office to correct all the irregular appointments which have been made in that department. All the 3rd grade officials, amanuenses and letter-carriers must pass the required examinations within 30 days, and all the chiefs of section, 1st and 2nd grade officials who have been appointed contrary to regulations, must at once be dismissed. This will undo much of Demosthenes' arbitrary work during the state of siege.

—On the 27th the *Journal* stated that the police were looking for a certain official whose accounts show a deficit of about 5,000,000\$. On the following day the *Journal* announced that the defaulter in question was Sr. Joaquim da Silva Guimarães, treasurer of the Central railway, that the defalcation amounted to 5,500,000\$, and that the criminal was arrested on the 27th. He will of course have more or more homelike who will at least be responsible for a small part of the defalcation.

—The *Journal* hears that the *Rachuelo* will not be ready to return to this port before August or September next. The repairs have been so made that other heavy expenses have been incurred, and it is now estimated that the total cost of these repairs will be about 1,000,000\$. It is also said that the ironclad will be top-heavy with new military masts which have been substituted. It will be a great disappointment to the government to find the ship almost useless after having spent so much money on these repairs and modifications.

—The first result of the recent sanitary conferences is an *aviso* from the minister of the interior, dated the 23rd inst., ordering the purchase of a piece of ground on Ilha Grande for a provisional isolated hospital for contagious diseases landed from vessels in quarantine, and the construction of the buildings necessary for this purpose. The amount to be paid for the land is 1,516\$, and for a brick hospital, drainage, etc., only 8,000\$—in all 9,516\$, or about £380. It is of great consequence, however, to be able to land the sick, and they might be sheltered under tents if nothing else is available.



	Apr. 22	Apr. 23	Apr. 24	Apr. 25	Apr. 26	Apr. 27	Apr. 28	Total	Total
								since 1st Apr.	since 1st Apr.
Receipts.....	bags								
Shipments to U. States.....	14,175	9,616	17,012	6,990	20,415	8,265	3,057	319,333	2,427,024
Europe.....	8,112	11,718	10,319	4,001	3,455	6,138	..	114,609	1,466,097
Canada.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Caribbean.....	2,593	140	1,728	..	1,650	450	..	27,662	447,585
River Plate etc.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46,625
Costa Rica.....	150	..	..	2,253	..	1,353	..	5,595	24,340
Total shipments.....	11,113	11,838	17,060	7,253	7,113	1,353	..	11,286	83,616
Stock.....	268,534	259,358	268,535	267,461	270,969	700,703	273,793	191,273	2,090,752
Average price No. 7									
N. Y.....	per @	\$150	21,500	21,500	22,500	21,600	..	..	..
do No. 8.....	30 mo	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,250	20,000	..	..	..
N. Y. spot quot No. 7.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Exchange on London.....	9 1/16	9 1/16	9 1/16	9 1/16	9 1/16	9 1/16	..	..	..
Reuter freight, 100 pounds.....	35-30 c	35-30 c	35-30 c	35-30 c	35-30 c	35-30 c	..	..	..
Reuter freight, 100 pounds.....	35-30 c	35-30 c	35-30 c	35-30 c	35-30 c	35-30 c	..	..	..



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1. On board I gave some of the Nectandra Amara wine, which I had brought with me for my own use, and it helped us all a great deal against the sea-sickness. Dr. Honoro Ottoni Nectandra Amara; and 2-king him for a Testimonial, he did it with great pleasure, saying that in cases of gastric-intestinal complaints with very good results.

Some of the other passengers also promised me testimonials which I shall forward to you as soon as I receive them. Aymurés, 15th November 1892. AUGUSTO DE ALMEIDA MAGALHÃES.

2.

Santos, 25th December 1894.

I beg to thank you again for the two bottles of Tincture of Nectandra Amara, which you were kind enough to offer me and I take great pleasure to inform you of the splendid results obtained on board the s/s Aquitaine on my last voyage south. At the dinner table I noticed the absence of some friends and learned on inquiry that they had retired to their cabins, being down with sea-sickness.

I looked them up and after taking some Nectandra, I had the great satisfaction to see them later on in the evening on deck, completely re-established.

Still more: my cabin-partner, an Uruguayan, who was on his return to his country, told me that he suffered on board from sea-sickness to such an extent, that he had never been able to leave the cabin or to walk, such was his disposition to vomit whenever he attempted to get up from his bed. Very well, with even that passenger I obtained a complete victory by giving him some Nectandra in the afternoon and at night; the next morning I had the great joy to find him in luck, where, on seeing me, he thanked me many times, asking me at the same time for the name of the medicine, as he intended to buy some of it on our arrival at Santos. Myself, I fortunately do not suffer from that complaint, and had therefore no necessity to make use of your powerful preparation; as you see, however, it had all desired effect whenever it was wanted. Yours etc. ERNANI PINTO.

3.

Pernambuco, on board s/s Alagoas, 17th January 1895.

It was really at an opportune moment when you had the kindness to offer me your most excellent preparation, the Tincture of Nectandra Amara, because when on board, I was very ill and became sea-sick, due in all probability to the long time that I had not undertaken a sea voyage.

I took some of your medicine with a very good result and beg to thank you therefore most warmly for your kind offer. Herewith please find three testimonials of some fellow-passengers, who were also benefited, like myself, by the use of that medicine.

I shall feel gratified if you will use this letter at your own discretion and have the honor to be, Yours sincerely, ANTONIO PINTO DE MORAES.

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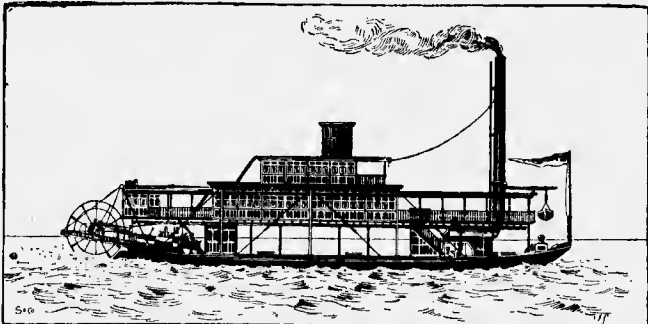
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